

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN May 2022

www.vfwauxmi.org

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care

Department Theme: Be the Anchor for Our Veterans, Hold Them Steady and Safe

Welcome to the Scholarships Program in the Department of Michigan! You are the link that will encourage and challenge young people in our state to learn more about patriotism, while attaining an education and reaching their full potential. Student Participation, Recipient Recognition, Community Awareness, and Increasing the Fund are the goals that will help achieve a successful program.

How do you get started? Keep it simple and have a plan. Prioritizing and knowing your Program before you “go live” will give you the confidence you need to instill excitement about our Scholarships. Teachers start to plan their year way before school starts, so visit early. Prepare a “packet of scholarship opportunities” including all the programs in the order of deadlines. Teachers may see that the dates to work on and finish an entry coincides with what they are required to do during the year – suggest ways to fit it in the lesson plan.

Make sure your information packet outlines the opportunities for the coming year and that it contains all the information about the Scholarships available. Include all information: deadline dates, the themes, rules, cash amounts being paid at Local level, Department level, National level, and your contact information. Deliver your packets to schools, libraries, churches, Scout Troops, any youth-focused organization. Why not ask if you can come into the classroom to present the program in person to the students. Personal contact and your positive attitude make all the difference! Show how students can earn Scholarships from 6th grade to graduation and have a head start on their future in education. Make a goal thermometer and fill it with money that could be earned each year from VFW Auxiliary Scholarships. Make a visual tri-fold board with the programs laid out to actually see the progression of how the contests work.

GET READY! GET SET! GO!

1. **October 31, 2022 (Entries at Post Level):** Voice of Democracy (audio essay) & Patriot's Pen (written essay) VOD is 9th-12th grades. The Theme is “Why is the Veteran Important?” Patriot's Pen is 6th -8th grades. The Theme is “My Pledge to our Veterans”. These are VFW Programs that we help support. Make sure you include all guidelines & forms needed – found at Department websites: www.vfwmi.org, www.vfwauxmi.org or National websites: www.vfw.org , www.vfwauxiliary.org .
2. **February 15, 2023:** Continuing Education Scholarship is open to members, their spouses, or children over the age of 18 providing financial assistance to further their education. The application includes an essay of no more than 300 words and is sent to National Headquarters. Four \$1,000.00 are awarded each year, in each of the four VFW

Auxiliary Conferences. Get the word out early to Posts and Auxiliaries by using posters, newsletters, websites, social media, and meeting announcements. Application can be found at www.vfwmi.org & www.vfwauxiliary.org

3. **March 31, 2023 Entries at Local Level:** The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship is open to students in grades 9th-12th grades (including Home schooled network). Students must be residents of Michigan and be sponsored by a Michigan Auxiliary.

NEW THIS YEAR! This contest is now broken into two contests.

- A. **Two dimensional** - *Must be on canvas or paper *Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, or other media may be used *Do not frame two-dimensional pieces *submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board *Other entries must be matted in white *Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper * Mounted and floating mats may also be used *The art should be no smaller than 8"x10" but no larger than 18"x24", not including the mat.

*****13 National Prizes Range from \$15,000 to \$500.00**

- B. **Three dimensional** - Can be paper, papier-mache, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc. *Entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction or more than 5 lbs. in weight – jewelry, digital art and photography are not acceptable.

*****National Prizes: First place is \$2500.00, Second Place is \$1,000.00, Third Place is \$500.00**

Application and complete rules can be found at www.vfwmi.org & www.vfwauxiliary.org

The Patriotic Art Escrow Fund: Please consider holding a fundraiser to increase this fund, the more youth we can recognize at the National level, the more youth we serve.

Remember, as Scholarship Chairman you are the "Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care" about our Veterans. We all need to work together to "Be the Anchor for Our Veterans, Hold Them Steady and Safe" by promoting VFW Auxiliary Scholarships that strengthen the support of Veterans.

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